

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The details about total quantity of iron ore exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom by MMTC during the 7th Five Year Plan period are as under :

Qty : lakh tonnes
Val : Rs. crores

Year	Qty.	Value
1985-86	163.96	335.69
1986-87	180.20	362.98
1987-88	145.85	294.42
1988-89	176.45	381.29
1989-90	175.20	496.77
Total	841.66	1871.15

(b) and (c). As per the Government Policy, iron ore surplus to domestic requirements is being exported. MMTC has made efforts to maximise iron ore exports during the Eighth Plan. The details regarding year-wise targets as well as exports of iron ore effected by MMTC during the Eighth Plan are as under :

(In Rs. crores)

Year	Target	Performance
1992-93	738.00	658.94
1993-94	667.89	633.60
1994-95	584.75	660.80
1995-96	688.28	688.90
1996-97 (Apr.-Oct '96)	724.20	396.39

(d) Presently, iron ore is being mainly exported to Japan, South Korea, China, Pakistan and UAE by MMTC.

(e) During this year, MMTC has signed a five-year Long-term Agreement with Japan and South Korea for export of various grades of iron ore. Another Long term Agreement has been signed with Pakistan, which is valid up to August '97. Proposals have also been received by MMTC for entering into Long-term Agreements with Thailand, China and Saudi Arabia.

Policy Paper on PSUs

401. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring out a policy paper on public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). There is no proposal to bring out any separate policy paper on the PSUs at the present

since the broad policy parameters have been spelt out in the Common Minimum Programme. To start with, a comprehensive package in respect of PSUs under the administrative control of Ministry of Industry (Department of Heavy Industry) is in the process of being finalised.

Import of Non-Ferrous Metal Waste

402. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the import of non-ferrous metal waste still continues;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the current licensing system has failed to meet the import demand; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Under the current Export and Import Policy, import of certain specified non-ferrous metal scraps identified by the ISRI (Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries) Code Word are permitted freely by all persons. Such imports are basically meant for recycling use. However, Import of all other non-ferrous metal waste and scrap continues to be regulated under the licensing system.

Hindustan Cables Ltd.

403. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Cables Ltd. is incurring losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any short and long term plan have been taken to check the losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the order book position of Hindustan Cables Ltd. during each of the last three years and till date; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the fresh orders?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Hindustan Cables Ltd. has been incurring losses since 1995-96.

(b) The main reasons for loss are low production due to acute shortage of working capital and huge sundry debtors alongwith excessive manpower cost and high interest charges.

(c) and (d).

i. Government has given guarantee for HCL's overdrawal against cash credit account.

- ii. DOT has released a part of the outstanding dues.
- iii. IFCL has reduced the margin money requirement for their loan to HCL from 30 % to 10 %.

- iv. Financial assistance under NRF is being given for implementation of VRS and reduction of fixed cost.

(e) The order book position of HCL during each of the last 3 years and till 31st October, 1996 is as under :

	1993-94 (Rs. in crore)	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Upto Oct. 1996)
Opening order	244	66	110	255
Order received during the year	308	609	477	119
Orders executed during the year	486	565	332	208
Orders carried over	66	110	255	166

(f) To boost fresh orders DOT has been requested to earmark 30% of its annual requirement of telecom cables for procurement from HCL and also give 50% advance to HCL alongwith purchase orders

Loss Suffered by MMTC due to Irregularities

404. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI K.S. RAYADU :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. has incurred losses due to irregularities recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to set right the working of the MMTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Removal of Quantitative Restrictions on All Imports

405. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's commitment to World Trade Organisation's provisions has prompted the Government to seek Industry's views on opening of the consumer goods industry and eliminate quantitative restrictions on their imports;

(b) if so, the reasons for such commitment;

(c) whether his Ministry has discussed this issue with all the organisations and industrialists;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e). Article XI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1994 requires that no prohibitions or restrictions other than duties, taxes or other charges, whether made effective through quotas, import or export licences or other measures shall be maintained by any members of the World Trade Organization (WTO). However, keeping in view the difficult balance of payments situation, India has been maintaining import restrictions since 1948 under Article XII, and since 1950 under Article XVIII.

During the last B.O.P. Committee consultations held in December, 1995 with India, many members of the WTO Committee on Balance-of-Payments-Restrictions stated that India's balance-of-payments position was comfortable, that India did not currently face the threat of a serious decline in foreign exchange resources as set out in Article XVIII and that, therefore, continued recourse to import restrictions for balance-of-payments reasons by India could not be justified. Many members requested India to present a time-table for phasing out the restrictions. In its conclusion, the Committee welcomed India's readiness to resume the consultations in October, 1996 and to notify to be WTO all remaining restrictions maintained for balance-of-payments purposes soon after the announcement of the 1996-97 Export-Import Policy. Accordingly, a notification regarding the quantitative restrictions was made to the WTO in July, 1996.

The time-table for removal of quantitative restrictions maintained on import of products, including the consumer goods, will be known only after the resumed consultations with India in the WTO Committee on Balance-of-Payments-Restrictions, which have now been postponed to January, 1997.

There is no requirement to consult the industry in the removal of QRs. However, industry's views on major